

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRASIL 07658 072059Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-01 SCA-01 L-02 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-04 PRS-01 SP-02

PM-03 NSC-07 SS-14 SY-02 DRC-01 /062 W

----- 029326

R 072030Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5903

INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 7658

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, BR, CPRS (MORRIS, FREDERICK)

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF DETENTION AMCIT MORRIS

REF: BRASILIA 7625

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MORRIS CASE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LIGHT SO FAR, BUT CHARACTERIZED BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE REMARKABLE RELATIVE FREEDOM FROM CENSORSHIP. SEVERAL JOURNALS GAVE MONOR PLAY TO NEWS ITEM OCTOBER 5 COVERING AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TO PROTEST "ILL-TREATMENT" OF MORRIS. THE LIBERAL JORNAL DE BRASILIA ON OCTOBER 6 HEADLINED FRONT-PAGE ITEM "AMERICAN PROTEST WITHOUT RESPONSE" AND GAVE BACKGROUND OF U.S. ACTION. STORY ALLUDED TO "RUMORS IN RECIFE" THAT MORRIS WAS WORKING FOR CIA. PURSUING THAT ANGLE, INFLUENTIAL ESTADO DE SAO PAULO ON OCTOBER 6 CARRIED ARTICLE PARE 31 ENTITLED "SILVEIRA WILL LOOK INTO THE CASE OF THE DOUBLE AGENT." A LENGTHY ITEM IN THE "INFORME JB" COLUMN OF THE JORNAL DO BRASIL ON OCTOBER 6, SPECULATES THAT MORRIS' INJURIES MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY AN ATTEMPT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRASIL 07658 072059Z

TO ESCAPE SECURITY AGENTS RATHER THAN BY MISTREATMENT

AT THEIR HANDS, AND ALSO REFERS TO ALLEGATIONS
THAT MORRIS HAD CONNECTION WITH THE CIA.

2. PRESTIGIOUS, WIDELY-READ POLITICAL COLUMNIST
CASTELLO BRANCO FOUND REASON FOR OPTIMISM IN THE
GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE MORRIS CASE. WRITING
IN JORNAL DO BRASIL OCTOBER 7, HE CITED NEWSPAPER
COVERAGE OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE MORRIS CASE TO SUPPORT
HIS JUDGEMENT THAT THIS "...REPRESENTS A NEW GOVERNMENT
POSTURE ON THE PROBLEM OF SUBVERSION AND ITS
REPRESSION. THE GOVERNMENT IS TENDING TOWARD
MODIFICATION OF AN ATTITUDE WHICH HAS BECOME TRADITIONAL
SINCE 1968, TO PERMIT THE CLARIFICATION OF DOUBTS
AND THE INVESTIGATION OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF PERSONS
WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED." PRESIDENT GEISEL'S APPARENT
PREDISPOSITION AGAINST ABUSES OF AUTHORITY, HE CONTINUES,
WAS BORNE OUT BY THE NEAR-ABSENCE OF CENSORSHIP ON THE
SENSITIVE MORRIS CASE. "THE ATTITUDE OF THE GEISEL
GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THE SUBJECT IS A NEW ATTITUDE",
ACCORDING TO THE WRITER, " AND IT WILL BE REFLECTED IN
A DECOMPRESSION AND REGULARIZATION OF THE SYSTEM FOR
SUPPRESSION OF SUBVERSION... THE REBUILDING BF THE
SUBVERSIVE GROUPS AND PARTIES IS ALWAYS A PRESENT
HYPOTHESIS, BUT IS IS NOT THE RIGORS OF REPRESSION
THAT WILL MODIFY THE THOUGHT AND ACTIONS OF THESE
TRADITIONAL ADVERSARIES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER."

3. COMMENT: THE WIDESPREAD PLAY OF MORRIS'
PURPORTED CONNECTION WITH THE CIA IS OBVIOUSLY OF
OFFICIAL BRAZILIAN ORIGIN. CPAO AND OTHER EMBASSY
OFFICERS HAVE CATEGORICALLY DENIED ANY MORRIS/CIA
CONNECTION WHEN ASKED.
CRIMMINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, PRESS COMMENTS, CONSULAR LEGAL ASSISTANCE, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL07658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740284-0424
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741068/aaaacfw.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BRASILIA 7625
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF DETENTION AMCIT MORRIS
TAGS: PINS, CPRS, CASC, BR, US, (MORRIS, FREDERICK B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005